

MICE AND BUGS VS. FROG LEGS

Food Fit for Man Is a Question of Custom.

Certain Dishes of White Man Scorned by Savages.

CATERPILLARS TASTE GOOD

That Is Providing One Knows Not What He Eats.

Some of the Delicacies(?) of the Natives of Africa.

Over on the "dark continent" the natives eat such delicacies(?) as caterpillars, mice, beetles and white ants.

Even the mere suggestion of indulging in these "vands of the African aborigines" would be repulsive to the average Topekan and would make a few of the more sensitively inclined quite ill. On the other hand, the primitive natives look upon the whites with amazement and a certain degree of contempt because of their liking certain articles of diet which the blacks scorn.

The question naturally arises whether, after all, it is not merely a matter of custom that determines the fitness of food for human consumption.

In the early nineties in Rhodesia, Great Britain's frontier colony, many a pioneer ate with relish food prepared by natives—that is until the ingredients were known.

For instance, to learn that one had been indulging in a grub worm stew was a thought too repelling for words.

Too Slimy for the Native.

The writer, who later spent six years in Rhodesia, considered frog legs a great delicacy, and often asked his black boy cook to prepare his favorite dish. This the native did, but the scowl on his countenance indicated his reluctance to do so. He asked how it was that a white man could eat anything so slimy?

There are many fastidious epicures in this country who are willing to pay high prices for frog legs, and while one often hears of bullfrog farms nowadays, there are large numbers of persons who are squeamish when it comes to the thought of eating frog flesh. They simply have to be educated to it. Oysters are generally eaten, although to many children the thought is repulsive; it is often a question of learning to like them. Custom certainly governs likes or dislikes to a large degree.

Locusts and Wild Honey.

The Kafirs eat locusts and wild honey, as did the people of Biblical days. The former, which are nothing more nor less than huge grasshoppers several inches in length, move in swarms so dense at times that the rays of the sun are obscured. At dusk they alight on the forest trees, bending the limbs with their weight. The natives bag them when they are numbed by the cool night air. They are boiled and placed on flat granite rocks to dry. They are then stored away in great earthen pots and used as occasion demands. The legs and wings are discarded, a little salt added, and then the insects are warmed preparatory for use. They are eaten as one would eat potato chips. And one who has partaken of grasshopper "fries" is authority for the statement that they are not half bad.

A relish concocted with ground pea-

nuts—and caterpillars—and eaten with a thick mush called ropoko, is delicious, providing one has a sharpened appetite and does not know at the time what he is eating—the writer knows. But what a difference it makes when one is told that he has been devouring caterpillars!

Refuse To Eat Rats.

Wild honey is plentiful in Africa, but while the natives are by no means adverse to eating it, they have a preference for the "bee bread" and the larvae. While the Kafirs refuse to eat the rats that steal their food, even in broad daylight, and nibble their toes by night, they enjoy nothing better than a juicy field mouse. In the winter months—May, June and July—they burn the tall, brown grass in order to bare the habitat of the small rodents.

The food eaten by field mice is clean and after all, there seems to be no good reason why they should not be as fit for food as squirrels, which belong to the same order—rodentia. But custom doesn't sanction it.

FRANK SNOW.

LEADS A HARD LIFE

Trials of Topeka Girl Behind Toilet Counter.

She Admits Trying All Kinds of Perfumery.

Life is not one sweet dream for the girl behind the toilet goods counter in Topeka dry goods stores—and it is particularly unpleasant if she attempts to be truthful. Just think of a girl's not being able to use her favorite perfume or bedaub her face with some special powder. Why it's little short of criminal but this is just what happens to the girl who is so unfortunate as to work for her living behind the highly scented bottles that stand in reeking rows on the show case where the cosmetics which make Milady what she appears to be are kept.

The girl is a victim of circumstances. She is forced into a life of perfume sampling by her ever inquisitive customers whose first word always is:

"Have you tried it?"

What can the poor girl do? She must say yes, no matter whether it is white heliotrope, rose omair, or sandalwood that the "lady customer" is asking about. And so it goes with every woman who even has an inkling that she wants some face powder, perfume, lip sticks, or eye pencils. She must know first whether or not the girl behind the counter has "ever tried it."

Knowing that she will be asked several times each day whether or not she has tried this or that beauty preparation the girl behind the counter spends her time so as to be able to tell the truth to every one of her customers. Just like every other woman, she has her favorite brands but she can't use them.

"There are almost a thousand different kinds," sighed the girl in one of the local stores as she told her story, "and I get awful tired of trying them. Why, sometimes I even have to paste beauty spots on my cheeks so that the women can see how they look. But I sell the stuff so what's the difference?"

A Star Legend.

Ursa Major, the Greater Bear, as the constellation has been known in widely separated parts of the world, has many interesting stories connected with it. One recently brought to light is the Indian legend of the Bear and the hunters. As pictured by the redmen, the bowl of the Dipper is the Bear and the stars in the handle are some of the hunters in pursuit of it. In the spring the bear comes out of the den in the hills and the chase begins. All summer it continues until at last in the autumn the bear is wounded and so close to the earth that its body drags along the horizon, tinting the leaves with its blood soon after sunset. Throughout the early hours of the winter evening the dead bear is seen beneath the pole by the imaginative redmen of the north.—Southern Woman's Magazine.

K'CHOO, COUNT'EM

Six Hundred Million Sneezes Annually Due to Hay Fever.

Resonance Nearly Equal to Cannonading in Europe.

200,000 AMERICANS AFFECTED

Die in Winter to Avoid Sneezes in Summer—Dr. Lull.

Pollen of Plants Causes Great American Sneezes.

He—the reporter—came to a sudden stop in the waiting room of a prominent Topeka physician and listened. From that room, similar to those wherein all physicians choose to make their diagnoses, came sounds similar to the Burbank of those uttered by the average person who attempts to read press accounts of the German drive on Warsaw and Petrograd, and the midnight effects of a cat-fight on a back yard fence.

Presently, after numerous stifled explosions, hisses, groans and cuss words had floated through the open transom to the reporter's ears, the door opened and a man, apparently in good health, emerged and disappeared through the outer door.

The newspaper man made his way into the private office and assumed the attitude of the interrogator.

"Hay fever," grunted the medicine man.

"Oh!"

Six hundred million sneezes—separate and distinct—is the roughly estimated result of hay fever every year—the estimate being made by Dr. C. C. Lull, county physician. That is a record for resonance nearly equal to the cannonading in Europe.

Says Dr. Lull: "Estimates by experts show that there are at least 200,000 persons in the United States affected with hay fever. Seventy-two sneezes a day is the estimate for those affected and 42 days is the minimum length of their affliction. Topekan are coming in for their full share of the poisons of pollen—for hay fever is caused by pollen from weeds and flowers."

How to Avoid It.

"How can hay fever be avoided?" was a question shot at Lull by the interviewer.

"Die some time in the winter," grunted the county physician. The responsibility of discovering hay fever is placed upon the shoulders of a man named Bostick, an Englishman, in about the year 1800.

The great American sneeze is caused, scientists say, by the pollen of various plants. There are no less than 130 plants known which carry the particular pollen which produces the sneeze and the quality of pollen drift this season is enormous. As many as 4,000,000 grains are deposited on a surface three feet square when the flowering season of plants is at its height. On Kansas avenue or on top of the state house dome you will find the pollen soaring around you. Hence this hurry scurry of hay feverites to high and dry climates where the sneeze is unknown. Medicine has made wonderful strides in the last ten years and hope for sneezers is in sight.

Rector—"The divorce laws are scandalous. They should be changed." Grass Widow—"I quite agree with you, Rector. It's a shame to be compelled to live so many months in those impossible places in order to acquire a legal residence."—Puck.

"Does your husband play cards for money?" "No," replied young Mrs. Torkins, thoughtfully. "I don't think Charley plays for money. But all the people who play with him do."—Washington Star.

"He comes from a good family." "Well, he must be a long way from home."—Life.

Caloric Fireless Cookers at Forbes'.—Adv.





Fair Week

Topeka, Sept. 13 to 17

THE FIRST BIG FREE FAIR OF THE KANSAS STATE FAIR ASSOCIATION

SAM'L. E. LUX, President and Manager

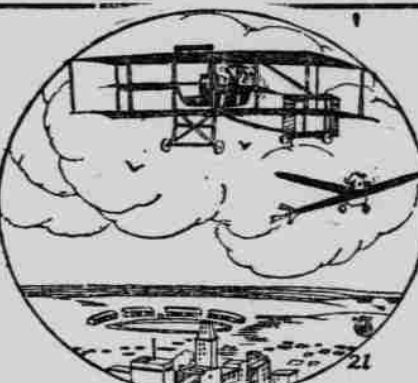
The gates of the Kansas State Fair Association at Topeka will stand open September 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, 1915, for the first Big Free Fair ever held in the United States. The beautiful 86 acre fair ground, all of the 24 permanent buildings, and every exhibit open free to the public.



The citizens of Topeka and Shawnee County voted a special tax to pay the premiums of the Big Free Fair. The Kansas Legislature made a direct appropriation. The mission of the fair is to teach and instruct and therefore should be free the same as other State Educational Institutions.

EXCITING POLO GAMES—DARING MONOPLANE FLIGHTS

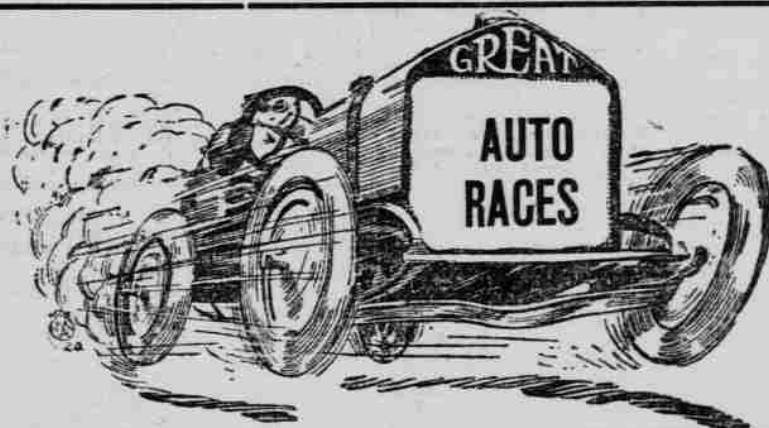
Every Day a Big Day—Big Wild West Show Original Georgia Minstrels, Motordrome, Giant Carousal, Special Shetland Pony Show, High-Class Vaudeville and Big Feature Acts—At The Big Free Fair.



Livestock Judging and Parades Daily, 3-Day Butter-Fat Contest, Big Dairy Show, 100-per cent Dairy Herd, Individual, Grange and County Agricultural Exhibits, Special Machinery Demonstrations.

THRILLING AUTO RACES BY PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS

Professional speed kings and their famous world record breaking cars compete for \$3,000 purses at the Big Free Fair Friday afternoon.



Military monoplane flights over the fair grounds in full view of the crowds. Demonstrations of aerial scouting and dropping of bombs.

BEAUTIFUL HORSE SHOW—FAST TROTTERING AND PACING

Harness and high school horses, fancy hitches, elaborate turn-outs, coaches, four-in-hands from the finest private stables.



Four days racing, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, on the fastest half mile track in the west. \$10,000 in Stakes and Purses.

Blue ribbon saddle horses that won first honors in Boston, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit and all the larger cities.

\$1,000 Trotting and Pacing Stakes. Largest number of entries on record. Running races every day. Track records will be lowered.

MAMMOTH LIVESTOCK AND AGRICULTURAL DISPLAYS

Judging and Prize Stock Parades Daily. Barns and Pens for 2,100 Head of Show Stock. Entire Building for Poultry Show. \$1,000 for prizes Grange Exhibits.

I'll Be In Topeka



40,000 Square Feet of Exhibits in Agricultural Hall. 400 Beautiful Art and Textile Exhibits. Big Culinary Display. Model Kitchen. Domestic Science and Child Hygiene Demonstrations.

15 ACRES OF MACHINERY TRACTORS WILL PLOW 100 ACRES

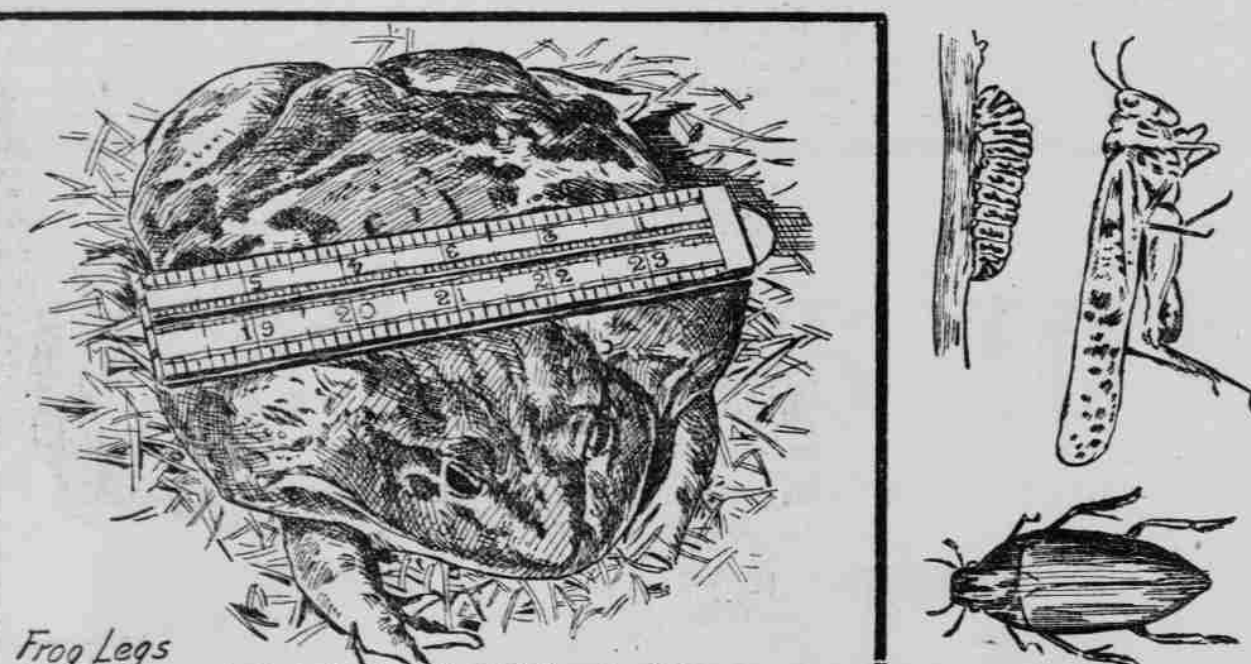
\$1,000 Saddle Horse Championship. 3 Big Concert Bands. The Famous 100 Per Cent Dairy Herd. Apiary Exhibit. Farm Grange and County Agricultural Exhibits.

ENTIRE BUILDING FOR AUTO SHOW Big DAIRY DISPLAY—Butter Fat Contest

Parking Space for 5,000 Autos. Shady Camping Ground With Free City Water. Rest Rooms. Private Rooms Listed by Commercial Club. Come and Stay the Week. Something Doing Every Day.

\$45,000 IN PREMIUMS, PURSES AND PRIZES

THE BIG FREE FAIR AT TOPEKA
SEPTEMBER 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 1915



Frog Legs Considered A Dainty Dish By Whites in Africa

Mashona Woman Preparing A Mouse Stew.



"What's One Man's Meat Is Another Man's Poison."